

REMARKS:

After entry of this response, claims 1 to 8, 25 to 33, 35 to 43, and 45 will be pending. Claims 1, 25, 26, 33, 35, 36, and 45 have been amended, and claims 24, 34, and 44 have been cancelled. Claims 1, 26, and 36 are the independent claims. Entry of this response, reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

All claims except claims 24, 34, and 44 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 6,311,193 (Sekido) or under § 103(a) over Sekido in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,819,292 (Hitz). Claims 24, 34, and 44 were objected to as being dependent upon rejected base claims but were otherwise held to be allowable.

Applicants have amended independent claims 1, 26, and 36 to recite the limitations of their dependent claims 24, 34, and 44, respectively. Accordingly, these claims and their dependent claims are now believed to be allowable.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Applicants' undersigned attorney can be reached at (614) 205-3241. All correspondence should continue to be directed to the address indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dane C. Butzer". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Dane" being the most prominent.

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